Botrychium crenulatum W. H. Wagner

DAINTY MOONWORT

FAMILY: *Ophioglossaceae*, the adder's-tongue family.

SYNONYMS: Botrychium lunaria (misapplied)

STATUS:

Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G3 S1?

USFWS/ESA: species of concern. STATE OF NEVADA: none. BLM: Special Status Species in Nevada.

USFS: Humboldt-Toiyabe NF and Inyo NF Sensitive Species. NNNPS: watch list.

POPULATION CENSUS (NEVADA): 6 occurrences mapped at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, OR 8 occurrences mapped at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated **individuals unknown**, total estimated **area 1.7+ ha (4.2+ ac)**. **TREND:** unknown.

IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS (NEVADA): No summary available (see references).

INVENTORY EFFORT (**NEVADA**): Not yet systematically surveyed in Nevada. Most recent entered survey 1998, average year of last survey 1982. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **0-5 yrs**: 37.5%; **6-10 yrs**: 37.5%; **51+ yrs or unknown**: 25%.

LAND MANAGEMENT (NEVADA) in decreasing predominance: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, designated wilderness.

RANGE: Clark, Elko (?), Esmeralda (?), Lander (?), Lyon (?), Mineral (?), Nye (?), and White Pine (?) counties, Nevada; also in AZ, CA, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, and WY. Likely occurs in isolated pockets in many of the higher and wetter mountains of Nevada. Maximum Nevada **range dimension 7.1 km (4.4 mi)** excluding most disjunct record.

ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA): 8202-11150 feet (2500-3399 meters).

HABITAT: Aquatic or wetland-dependent in Nevada.

PHENOLOGY: fertile late-spring. Range of most frequent survey months: July-August.

LIFE-FORM AND HABIT: small cormous fern-ally.

DESCRIPTION: Wavy Moonwort is a small, perennial fern with a single aboveground frond. The frond is usually 10 cm or less tall, yellow-green, and divided into two segments which share a common stalk. The mostly sterile segment is once pinnatifid with usually three or four well separated pairs of thin textured, broadly fan-shaped pinnae which have distinct veins and crenulate margins. The fertile segment is longer than the sterile segment, is branched (often like a tiny Christmas tree), and bears grape-like sporangia. Spores germinate underground and develop into minute, subterranean, non-photosynthetic gametophytes which depend on an endophytic fungus for nourishment.

Distinguishing features: Yellow-green color and well separated, thin textured, broadly fan-shaped pinnae with crenulate margins and prominent veins are diagnostic of B. CRENULATUM. It may be easily confused with B. ASCENDENS, B. LUNARIA, and B. MINGANENSE. Reliable field determination of moonworts depends on the careful use of technical keys and comparison with silhouette outlines of verified specimens. Identification can be complicated because there is often a high degree of morphological variability between individuals in a population and between populations of the same species; several species may grow together at the same site, and the few diagnostic characters may not be apparent in small plants.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Nevada Natural Heritage Program images web page (1998-present).

ILLUSTRATIONS: none known.

OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES (listed separately): Flora of North America editorial Committee (1993), Hickman (1993), Sada and Nachlinger (1996).

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